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ABSTRACT

Seven issues of a newsletter on recent library statistics in Colorado provide information Internet service in Colorado public libraries, technology in public libraries, school library media centers, and the number of public library outlets in Colorado and the United States. Almost all of Colorado's public libraries provide electronic access to information, through ACLIN (Access Colorado Library and Information Network) and the Internet. Ninety-five percent of Colorado households reported having one or more members who used the services of a public library within the past year, according to a 1996 public opinion poll, while families with children using libraries and library technology more often. Highlights of a report on the status of school library media programs Colorado for 1994-97 are presented. The availability of after school and weekend hours of library media centers in Colorado public schools in 1997 are assessed. National statistics for the 1995-96 school year indicated that school library media programs in Colorado are typical of those in the nation as a whole. State and national surveys indicated that Coloradans and Colorado public libraries meet or exceed several national norms regarding the Internet, with Coloradans 38% more likely to be regular Internet users, and Colorado public libraries 22% more likely than libraries nationwide to provide Internet access. Another study showed that only three out of five American communities have public library outlets. (SWC)

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Fast Facts: Recent Statistics from the Library Research Service, Nos. 131-137 September-November 1997

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FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 131 September 1, 1997

ACLIN & Internet Services in Colorado Public Libraries, 1997

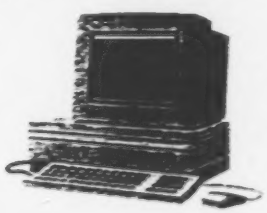
While many still think of libraries primarily as warehouses for books, almost all of Colorado's public libraries now provide electronic access to information. The two primary channels of such access are ACLIN, the Access Colorado Library and Information Network, and the global Internet. ACLIN includes OVER 230 library catalogs and other informational databases.

Electronic Access to Information

The most ubiquitous form of electronic access to information in Colorado public libraries is to ACLIN. All Coloradans living in public library service areas of 5,000 or more can consult ACLIN at their libraries. The overwhelming majority of the state's smallest public libraries also provide ACLIN access.

Electronic Access to Information at Colorado Public Libraries, 1997

Public Library Service Area Population	Libraries with Electronic Access to Information	
	ACLIN	Internet
100,000 & over	100%	100%
25,000-99,999	100%	85%
10,000-24,999	100%	86%
5,000-9,999	100%	83%
2,500-4,999	87%	53%
1,000-2,499	78%	52%
Under 1,000	75%	42%



Types of ACLIN & Internet Access

Each public library provides access to ACLIN via one of three means: dial access, dedicated line, or a combination of both. Four out of five of the state's largest libraries, those serving 100,000 and over, rely on dedicated lines with dial access as a back-up. About half of libraries serving between 10,000 and 100,000 rely mostly on dedicated lines, but the other half have exclusively dial access. Smaller libraries are even more dependent upon dial access.

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Types of Internet access follow a similar pattern, with the exception that dependence upon dial access increases dramatically once the population of a service area drops below 25,000.

Public Access and Staff Supervision

Public access to ACLIN without staff supervision increases steadily with the size of public library service areas. Nine out of ten libraries serving 25,000 or more provide such unencumbered access, and a third of the state's smallest libraries provide it. Three out of four libraries serving 100,000 or more provide unsupervised access to the Internet, but such access drops off sharply after that. In service areas between 2,500 and 100,000, only about one library in five provides it.

Remote Access

Remote access to the Internet via public libraries is less common. Remote access to the Internet is provided only by some of the state's largest libraries, those serving 100,000 and over. Two out of five of these libraries provide remote Internet access via the library. ACLIN is accessible via the World Wide Web or, in text-only mode, via dial access nodes located statewide.

Internet Services Available to the Public via Libraries

Three out of five public libraries in Colorado provide public access to the Internet, but of those three, only two provide graphical access to the World Wide Web; one provides text only access. Fortunately, however, the libraries most likely to provide full Internet access are ones that serve larger populations. One-third of libraries serving 10,000 and over provide graphical Web access. Such access is rarest among libraries serving fewer than 2,500. Half of the state's libraries serving 100,000 and over provide access to telnet and gopher services, but those services are rarely available via smaller libraries. As of early 1997, only a small handful of public libraries provide e-mail accounts to their patrons, and those libraries tend to serve very small populations (1,000 to 10,000). In all likelihood, such libraries are located in small, isolated communities where there are few, if any, local Internet service providers.

FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

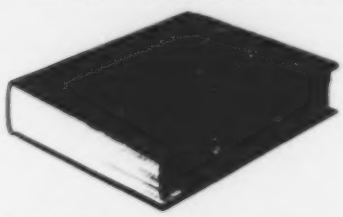
ED3/110.10/No. 132 October 7, 1997

PUBLIC LIBRARIES, EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY AND COLORADO KIDS

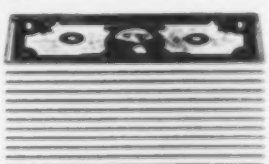
Ninety-five percent of Colorado households report having one or more members who used the services of a public library within the past year, according to a 1996 public opinion poll by MGA Communications, Inc. For households including children under age 18, that figure is 96 percent—a negligible one percent difference. Beyond that basic fact, however, there are many noteworthy differences in the responses from households with children and those without children.

- **Families with kids use public libraries more often.** Households with children are more than twice as likely to visit libraries on a weekly basis and more than 20 percent more likely to visit libraries once or twice a month.
- **Families with kids are more likely to use library technology.** Two out of three households with children report using library computers to find information not available locally. Less than half of households without children report such use.

- **Families with kids are more likely to use libraries for education-related purposes.** Two out of three households with children report using library materials to complete school projects compared to less than one-third of households without children.



- **Families with kids are more likely to visit libraries seeking more current information and newer ways of accessing it.** More often than households without children, households with children visit libraries: 1.) to borrow books on tape and videos (12 v. 20 percent, respectively); 2.) to use a personal computer (10 v. 15 percent); 3.) to read newspapers and magazines (10 v. 14 percent); and 4.) to access the Internet (3 v. 11 percent).



- **Families with kids are more supportive of expanding the role of computers in libraries.** Compared with households without children, those with children are more likely to support libraries adding freestanding computers for personal use (31 v. 40 percent respectively) and networked computers that provide access the Internet and other online information (29 v. 42 percent).

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FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 133 October 21, 1997

The Status of School Library Media Programs in Colorado, 1994-97

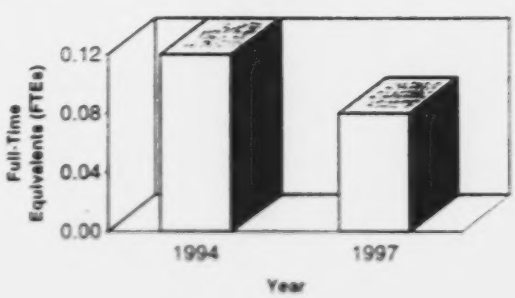
1994-97 Highlights

- Overall staffing static. Endorsed library media specialists cut. BOCES/contract staff spread thin.
- Book collections holding in size, but periodical collections declining.
- Reduced spending and inflationary prices of books and periodicals mean aging collections.

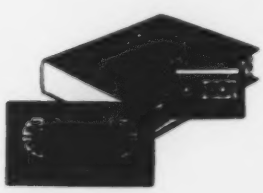
Library Media Staffing

The practice of librarianship is becoming de-professionalized in Colorado schools. From 1994 to 1997, the number of library media staff per 100 students dropped only slightly from .31 to .30 full-time equivalents (FTEs). During the same interval, the number of endorsed library media specialists per 100 students for the typical school library media program fell from .12 FTEs to .08 FTEs—**a 33 percent cut**. Library media specialists have been displaced by other staff, such as library media aides—who are not endorsed—and BOCES and contract library media staff—who may or may not be endorsed. In 1997, the statewide total hours per typical week for BOCES and contract staff was 61 hours. Barely 1.5 FTE statewide, these staff served 65 schools. That amounts to 56 minutes of "professional" staff attention per typical week to the library media program in each school.

FTE Library Media Specialists Per 100 Students



Library Media Collections



Since 1994, library media programs in Colorado schools have introduced an increasing variety of non-print resources without sacrificing books. Between 1994 and 1997, the number of volumes held per student has remained constant at 18. During the same interval, periodical subscriptions

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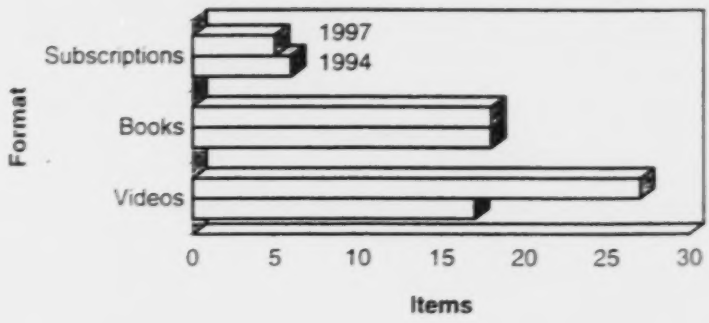
per 100 students has dropped from six to five—**a 17 percent cut**. At the same time, other formats have become more prevalent: Statewide, video collections have grown from 17 videos per 100 students to 27—**a 59 percent increase**. Likewise, computer software collections have grown from 5 software packages per 100 students to six—**a 20 percent increase**.

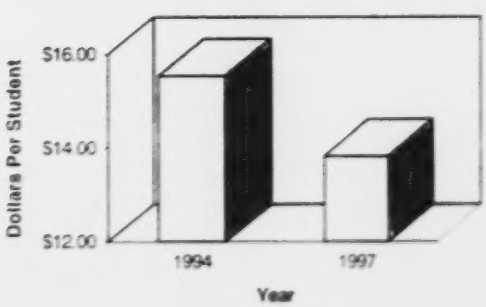
Volumes Per Student and Subscriptions & Videos Per 100 Students



Library Media Expenditures

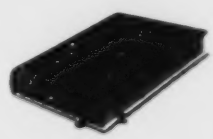
From 1994 to 1997, library media expenditures per student fell from $15.54 to $13.82—**an 11 percent drop**. Per student expenditures on books in particular declined from $10.72 to $9.09—**a 15 percent drop**—while expenditures on non-print materials per student went from $2.47 to $1.44—**a 42 percent drop**. Though the latter drop may reflect counter-inflationary price trends for some non-print formats (video prices fell 15 percent and audio cassette prices one percent), the same cannot be said for waning book spending. Between 1994 and 1997, the average price of a school library book increased almost 13 percent.

Library Media Expenditures Per Student



In 1997, the average elementary book costs $21.65 and the average secondary book $39.37—thus, this year, the state's library media programs were able to purchase only about one new book for every three to four students.

Indeed, the drop in book expenditures, coupled with book price inflation, implies that, in many school libraries, the 18 books per pupil reported in 1997 may actually be the same 18 books reported in 1994.



FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 134 November 14, 1997

After School and Weekend Hours of Library Media Centers in Colorado Public Schools, 1997

Time is precious during the school day, whether one is a student, a teacher, a staff member, or an administrator. All too often sufficient time cannot be found to visit the school library media center (LMC) during regular school hours. What's a person to do? One commonly used alternative is the local public library; but in many small and outlying communities public libraries are open even fewer hours than LMCs. Besides, few public libraries anywhere in the state develop staff and collections with the intention that they serve as adequate substitutes for their school counterparts. Ideally, then, students, teachers, and others—including parents—would be able to visit their school's LMC at some time beyond the regular school schedule, either after school on weekdays or on the weekend. Of course, such "after hours" access requires a variety of resources, including staff, funding, training, and a secure facility. The number and schedule of such hours will vary based on the school and the community.

The majority of Colorado's LMCs are open some time after school hours and on weekends, but larger schools and those serving larger enrollments are likelier to open "after hours."

Highlights

- Two out of three Colorado LMCs are open some hours after school hours and on weekends.
- One out of 10 LMCs is open 10 or more hours per week after school hours and on weekends. A quarter are open 5-9 hours per week, and almost a third are open up to five hours per week "after hours."
- Three out of four elementary schools have library media centers that are never open after school hours or on weekends.
- Almost half of schools serving enrollments of less than 300 have library media centers that are never open after hours.

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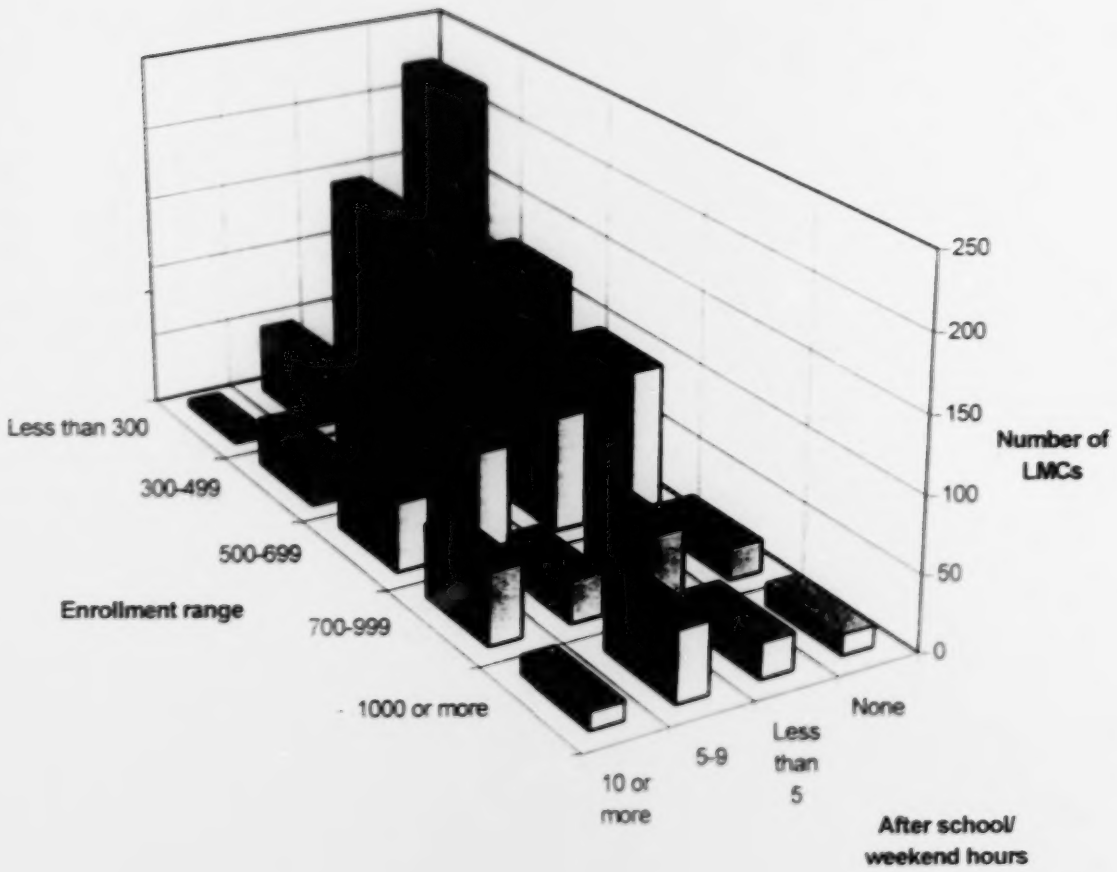
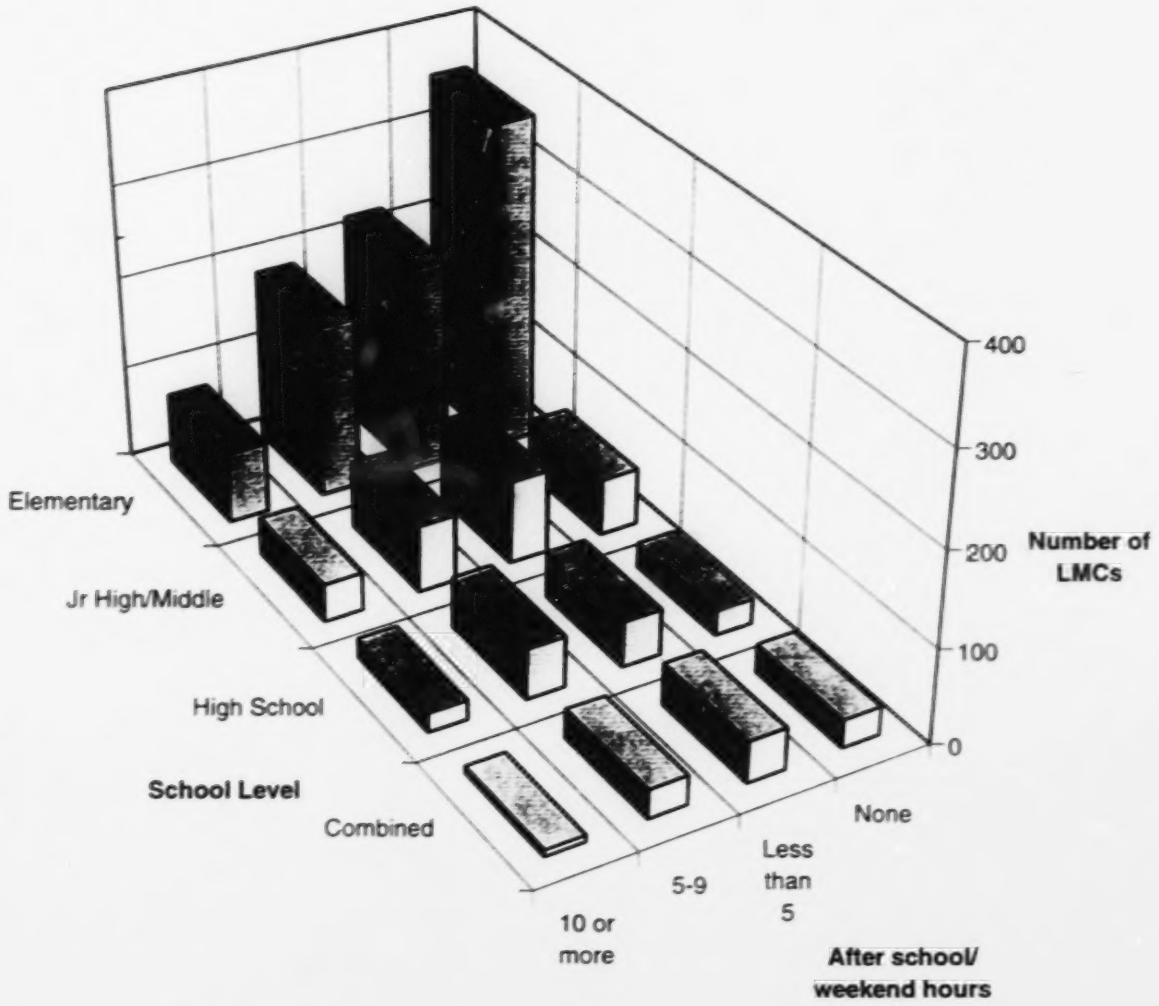
After School/Weekend Hours of Library Media Centers in Colorado Public Schools by Enrollment Range, 1997



After School/Weekend Hours of Library Media Centers in Colorado Public Schools by School Level, 1997



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Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 135 November 19, 1997

School Library Media Programs in Colorado Typical of Nation, 1995-96

Recently released national statistics on school library media (LM) programs for the 1995-96 school year suggest that LM programs in Colorado are fairly typical of the nation. In their biennial survey for School Library Journal, Miller and Shontz report figures on five topics for which comparable state data are available. Those topics are: staffing, spending, holdings, technology, and planning time.

How Colorado Stands Out

- Elementary and combined schools less likely to have LM specialists.
- Elementary and middle schools not as well funded.
- More likely to have fax capability and computers with modems.
- LM specialists spend a third less time planning with teachers.

Library Media Specialists

Miller and Shontz ask simply how many library media specialists (LMSs) there are in the school. (They do not ask about staffing in terms of full-time equivalents.) Accordingly, they report that it is typical for there to be one LMS per school, regardless of level. This is one of the few respects in which Colorado is atypical of the nation: LMSs are not commonly found at every school level. Almost three out of five Colorado elementary schools and almost two out of three of the state's combined schools do not have an LMS—even on a part-time basis.

Sources

- Keith Curry Lance and Marti A. Cox, **Statistics and Input-Output Measures for School Library Media Centers in Colorado, 1996** (Denver: Library Research Service, 1996).
- Marilyn L. Miller and Marilyn L. Shontz, Small Change: Expenditures for Resources in School Library Media Centers, FY 1995-96, **School Library Journal**, October 1997, pp. 28-37.

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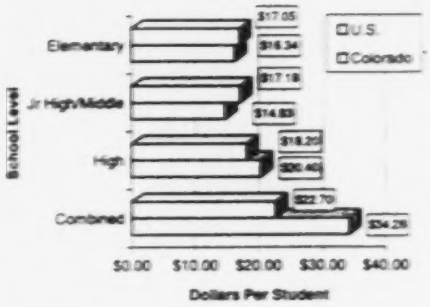
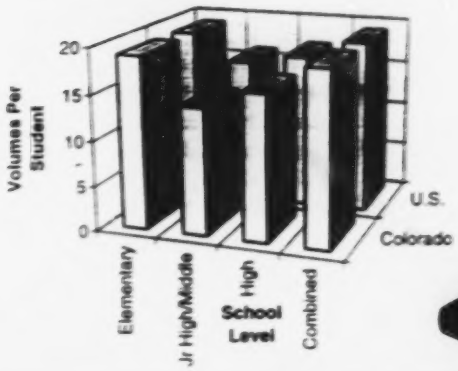
Library Media Expenditures

Per student spending on library media collections varies dramatically from one school level to another. While Colorado's high schools and combined schools exceed the national norms, its elementary and middle schools fall short.

Library Media Expenditures Per Student, Colorado & U.S., 1995-96



Volumes Held Per Student, 1995-96



Library Media Collections

Per student holdings in LM collections vary by school level, but are remarkably similar for Colorado and the U.S.

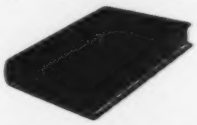


Table 1
Library Media Collection Ratios, Colorado & U.S., 1995-96

	School Level							
	Elementary		Jr High/Middle		High		Combined	
Collection statistic	Colorado	U.S.	Colorado	U.S.	Colorado	U.S.	Colorado	U.S.
Volumes per student	19	19	14	16	16	17	19	19
Videos per 100 students	25	25	20	26	29	31	39	35
Software per 100 students	7	7	4	4	2	2	4	5

Library Media Technology

While Colorado LM programs are typical of their peers nationwide in their use of some technologies, they are more likely to have computers with modems and fax capabilities.

Table 2
Percentages of Library Media Programs Reporting Use of Selected Technologies, Colorado & U.S., 1995-96

Technology	Colorado	U.S.
Telephone in LMC	85%	85%
Computer with modem	74%	65%
Online catalog	74%	60%
Web access	49%	49%
Fax capability	31%	19%

Library Media Specialist/Teacher Planning Time

On the average, Colorado library media programs report that library media specialists (LMSs) spend 2.1 hours per week in cooperative planning with classroom teachers. Miller and Shontz asked LM programs nationwide to report such hours, but sub-divided it into formal and informal categories—a distinction not made in Colorado. Nationally, the average for formal planning hours per week was 1.1; but, an additional 2.3 informal hours were also reported, for a total of 3.4 planning hours per week. Which of these national figures should be compared to the Colorado figure is debatable.

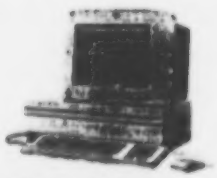
FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 136 November 24, 1997

Coloradans—and Colorado Public Libraries—Top National Internet Norms

Recent state and national surveys indicate that Coloradans—and Colorado public libraries—meet or exceed several national norms regarding the Internet. **Coloradans are 38 percent more likely to be regular Internet users.** Nationwide, 34 percent of American adults use the Internet on at least a monthly basis, but 47 percent of Colorado adults do so. **Similarly, the state's public libraries are 22 percent more likely than libraries nationwide to provide Internet access.** Sixty percent of U.S. public libraries provide Internet access, compared with 73 percent in Colorado.

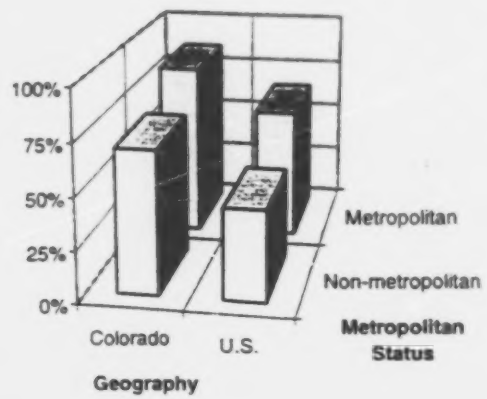


Internet Access at Public Libraries Metropolitan & Non-metropolitan Colorado & U.S., 1997

Public Libraries	Colorado	U.S.
Metropolitan	85%	64%
Non-metropolitan	69%	44%
Total	**73%**	**60%**

Colorado public libraries enjoy this distinction whether they are in urban (i.e., metropolitan) or rural (i.e., non-metropolitan) areas. (See table.)

Colorado public libraries are typical of the nation's libraries in providing World Wide Web access. Fifty-two percent of U.S. public libraries provide Web access, and 54 percent of Colorado libraries provide it.



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Postscript: Colorado Public Libraries as Primary Internet Access Points

A recent state poll indicates that **almost 100,000 Coloradans**—four percent of the state's adult population and 8.5 percent of the state's adult Internet users—rely primarily on the state's public libraries for Internet access. **Of the state's 1.1 million adult Internet users, one in twelve depends on the public library for access to it.** As these Internet users indicate that they use it on at least a monthly basis, they could account for 1.1 to 1.2 million Internet uses per year at the state's public libraries. (To put that in context, public library circulation for 1996 totaled about 32 million transactions.)

Sources

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- Leyla Kokmen, *Colorado Loves to Surf*, **Denver Post**, November 21, 1997. Available at: http://www.denverpost.com/news/news1471.htm.
- Lisa Greim, *Coloradans Flocking to the Internet*, **Rocky Mountain News**, November 21, 1997. Available at: http://www.insidedenver.com/internet/1121wire.html.
- American Library Association, Public Information Office press release: *Public Internet access at nation's library systems increases sharply; library branches lag*, November 18, 1997 (contact: Andrew Eisgrau 202-628-8410).
- American Library Association Office of Information Technology Policy, **The 1997 National Survey of U.S. Public Libraries and the Internet: Summary Results** (Chicago: ALA, 1997).

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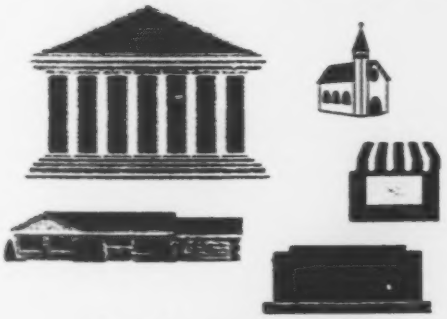
FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 137 November 25, 1997

Only Three Out of Five American Communities Have Public Library Outlets



Municipal Governments & Places with Public Library Outlets By Region & Sub-Region, 1992/93

Nation/ Region/ Sub-Region	Municipal governments (including townships in selected states) 1992	Places with public library outlets 1993	Ratio of places with public library outlets to municipal governments
United States	**21,642**	**13,002**	**60%**
Northeast	**4,471**	**2,938**	**66%**
New England	1,580	1,276	81%
Mid-Atlantic	2,891	1,662	57%
Midwest	**8,484**	**4,454**	**52%**
East North Central	3,907	2,478	63%
West North Central	4,577	1,976	43%
South	**6,448**	**3,518**	**55%**
East South Central	1,511	822	54%
South Atlantic	2,387	1,532	64%
West South Central	2,550	1,164	46%
West	**2,239**	**2,092**	**93%**
Mountain	1,121	831	74%
Pacific	2,239	2,092	93%

One of the quintessential landmarks in the Norman Rockwell image of the American town is the public library building. But, this traditional conception has little to do with contemporary reality. In metropolitan areas, the public library is usually represented, not by a single building, but by a large central library and numerous neighborhood branches. Many New England towns have multiple public libraries. In outlying rural areas, public libraries are occasionally found where there is not even a "wide spot in the road." Generally, however, most people assume that every place big enough to have a local government has a public library, whether it is a creature of the city or town in which it is located or part of a county-wide system or library district.

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Every five years (most recently in 1992) the Census Bureau conducts a Census of Governments that determines the number of municipal governments. That year, there were 21,642 municipal governments in the U.S., including cities and towns and, in the New England states and New York State, townships. (Note: The District of Columbia is excluded from this analysis.) In 1993, 13,002 places reported having public library outlets, including main or central libraries and library branches. These figures indicate that only three out of five U.S. communities have public library outlets.

Colorado Postscript

Colorado is slightly below the 74 percent norm for the Mountain West states: its 68 percent ratio (based on 266 municipal governments and 180 places with public library outlets) indicates that there may be a public library in two out of three communities in the state.

Sources

- **Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1996** (Bureau of the Census, 1996).
- **Public Libraries in the United States: 1993** (National Center for Education Statistics, 1995) Public library outlet file available on disk and at http:\\ nces.ed.gov/surveys/ public.html.

REGION/STATE	Municipal governments (including townships in selected states) 1992	Municipalities with public library outlets 1993	Ratio of places with public library outlets to municipal governments
United States	**21,642**	**13,002**	**60%**
NORTHEAST			
New England			
Connecticut	179	202	113%
Maine	490	216	44%
Massachusetts	351	405	115%
New Hampshire	234	217	93%
Rhode Island	39	43	110%
Vermont	287	193	67%
Sub-Total	**1,580**	**1,276**	**81%**
Mid-Atlantic			
New Jersey	320	378	118%
New York	1,549	792	51%
Pennsylvania	1,022	492	48%
Sub-Total	**2,891**	**1,662**	**57%**
SUB-TOTAL	**4,471**	**2,938**	**66%**

REGION/STATE	Municipal governments (including townships in selected states) 1992	Municipalities with public library outlets 1993	Ratio of places with public library outlets to municipal governments
United States	**21,642**	**13,002**	**60%**
MIDWEST			
E N Central			
Illinois	1,282	656	51%
Indiana	566	329	58%
Michigan	534	544	102%
Ohio	942	533	57%
Wisconsin	583	416	71%
Sub-Total	**3,907**	**2,478**	**63%**
W N Central			
Minnesota	854	325	38%
Iowa	953	533	56%
Kansas	627	345	55%
Missouri	933	299	32%
Nebraska	534	268	50%
North Dakota	366	79	22%
South Dakota	310	127	41%
Sub-Total	**4,577**	**1,976**	**43%**
SUB-TOTAL	**8,484**	**4,454**	**52%**

REGION/STATE	Municipal governments (including townships in selected states) 1992	Municipalities with public library outlets 1993	Ratio of places with public library outlets to municipal governments
United States	**21,642**	**13,002**	**60%**
SOUTH			
E S Central			
Alabama	440	221	50%
Kentucky	438	165	38%
Mississippi	294	220	75%
Tennessee	339	216	64%
Sub-Total	**1,511**	**822**	**54%**
South Atlantic			
Delaware	57	28	49%
Florida	390	276	71%
Georgia	536	268	50%
Maryland	155	129	83%
North Carolina	518	322	62%
South Carolina	270	157	58%
Virginia	230	191	83%
West Virginia	231	161	70%
Sub-Total	**2,387**	**1,532**	**64%**
W S Central			
Arkansas	489	191	39%
Louisiana	301	246	82%
Oklahoma	589	170	29%
Texas	1,171	557	48%
Sub-Total	**2,550**	**1,164**	**46%**
SUB-TOTAL	**6,448**	**3,518**	**55%**

REGION/STATE	Municipal governments (including townships in selected states) 1992	Municipalities with public library outlets 1993	Ratio of places with public library outlets to municipal governments
United States	**21,642**	**13,002**	**60%**
WEST			
Mountain			
Idaho	199	132	66%
Arizona	86	126	147%
Colorado	266	180	68%
Montana	128	111	87%
Nevada	18	57	317%
New Mexico	99	68	69%
Utah	228	82	36%
Wyoming	97	75	77%
Sub-Total	**1,121**	**831**	**74%**
Pacific			
Alaska	149	94	63%
California	460	708	154%
Hawaii	1	39	3900%
Oregon	240	176	73%
Washington	268	244	91%
Sub-Total	**1,118**	**1,261**	**113%**
SUB-TOTAL	**2,239**	**2,092**	**93%**

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